

## ECUADOR STATEMENT FOR 2020 SPECIAL DISCUSSION: IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE WORLD DRUG SITUATION, A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Ecuador since 2016 is committed to evidence based as a key part of our drug policy.

We understood that in order to prevent drug consumption, treat it and tackle it's traffic Information is vital.

Data will lead us to better responses and smart investments.

Furthermore, Drug policy should be linked to develop policies, cities are growing faster than we expected and generating new challenges as we heard in the previous panel.

We have a challenge, poverty, exclusion, lack of education, lack of health care are problems that should be tackle because these factors are risk factors to drug consumption and drug trafficking.

COVID 19 impacted in Ecuador to the most vulnerable communities. Especially young people lost their jobs and stop studying at high school and universities. Strategies to tackle the drug problem requires analyze the new economic and social conditions in developing countries. We need to invest in the human beings in order reduce risk factors linked to drug consumption and drug trafficking.

